

81
K-145

Mitchell Home Farm
Kentmore Park
2nd Quarter 19th Century

While the house at Mitchell Home Farm stands on the west side of the road to Kentmore Park, the barns which serviced the farm are located across the road to the east. The house itself is a 19th century brick structure built in two parts.

Originally part of Shrewsbury Farm, the 18th century plantation of General John Cadwalader, this part passed first through the hands of Samuel Wethered of Baltimore before being sold to Robert and Margaret Polk of New Castle County, Delaware in 1842. Detailing in the house points to a construction date in the the second quarter of the 19th Century, however, it has not been determined if it was the product of the Wethered or Polk ownership.

The form of the house is one common in Kent County; two sections, each two stories, but one being taller than the other. Its plan is actually similar to another tenant house constructed on Shrewsbury Farm, with parlor and stairhall in the main section and a dining room and kitchen in the wing. The number of windows differs between first and second story suggesting that there were porches on both sides, as was the case at Little Neck near Rock Hall.

The house suffered a fire in the 1960's and has been vacant ever since. While it was severely damaged, it is not beyond repair and could, if rehabilitated, serve its original purpose as a dwelling house.

K-145

Circa 1820-1840

Mitchell Home Farm

Near Locust Grove

Private

The rather ungainly, homely house at the Mitchell Home Farm is not as old as it first appears to be. It probably was built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, archaic in some respects. It certainly does not date from the eighteenth century, when General John Cadwalader owned much of Shrewsbury Neck, including this portion. His estate was not settled until after 1800. It probably dates from around 1840, about the time of the settlement of the estate of Samuel Wethered, who owned this farm as part of a larger one but would not have lived at this location. Despite initial impressions, the lower wing was not built in two stages, nor does it appear earlier than the main section. This house can be viewed as an example of some decay in Kent County building quality during the first half of the nineteenth century. Though this house could not have been inexpensive to build, it does not appear to have been particularly well built. And if its builder was trying to reproduce in a new house the virtues and grace of an old form and style, he did not succeed. The style could perhaps be called archaic Federal or persistent Federal. Both sections of this gable-roofed house are brick and two storeys tall, with gable roofs, though the wing is lower. The first storey of each section on the south, main-facade side is four bays wide; the second storey of each has only two bays. On the north side, each section originally was three bays wide on the first storey and two on the second. The walls have been sprayed with a heavy, paint-like substance, and it is difficult to study the brickwork. However, the main facade of both sections seems to be laid in Flemish bond, even at this late date in the nineteenth century. The main-section plan is side hall, with one room to the east. Two wing rooms are to the west. A shed/summer kitchen formerly was attached at the wing's west end. Some years ago there was a fire in the main section, and the house has not been used since then. The farm is now a commercial operation for an absentee owner, and a house is not needed to house a farm family.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Roy C. Mitchell Home Farm

2. Location

West side of Rt. 444 (Kentmore Park Road),
street & number 2.5 miles north of Rt. 213 not for publication

city, town Locust Grove ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: unused |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dietrich von Boetticher, c/o C. David Muth

street & number P.O. Box 698 telephone no.: (Muth) 778-6280

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 144

street & number Cross Street folio 27

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABs Inventory

date September 18, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. K-145

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins-nearly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The farmhouse at the Mitchell Home Farm stands quite close to the west of the public road (Route 444, the Kentmore Park Road), with its end paralleling it. Given the road's northwestward direction, this suggests that the house was sited after the roadway was established. The farm's outbuildings are located on the east side of the road. An unknown length of time ago there was a fire in the main section, which evidently began in the east end on the first storey, spreading up through the second, and then west through the attic. The building has not been repaired since then, though it was made reasonably weather-tight. It has not been occupied by a family for some time, having been used intermittently for seasonal farm workers before the fire. The farm is now a commercial operation for an absentee owner, and the house is not needed to house a farm family. There are two wide gable-roofed sections end-to-end that are built of brick. Both are two-storey, but the section end is lower. The approach side is the south facade, where there is a four-bay shed-roofed porch across the main section. Both sections are built of brick. The main section is four bays wide on the first storey of its approach side and only two bays wide on the second storey. On the rear it was originally three bays wide on the first storey and only two on the second. The second storey was poorly lit. The fenestration of the wing is irregular. The main section has a side-hall plan on the first storey though the hall has been altered. The wing is attached to the west side of the hall. A shed-roofed, frame kitchen addition (second kitchen) formerly stood at the west end of the wing but is now gone.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-145

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates Circa 1820–1840

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The rather ungainly, homely house at the Mitchell Home Farm is not as old as it first appears to be. It probably was built in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, archaic in some respects. It certainly does not date from the eighteenth century, when General John Cadwalader owned much of Shrewsbury Neck, including this portion. His estate was not settled until after 1800. It probably dates from around 1840, about the time of the settlement of the estate of Samuel Wethered, who owned this farm as part of a larger one but would not have lived at this location. Despite initial impressions, the lower wing was not built in two stages, nor does it appear earlier than the main section. This house can be viewed as an example of some decay in Kent County building quality during the first half of the nineteenth century. Though this house could not have been inexpensive to build, it does not appear to have been particularly well built. And if its builder was trying to reproduce in a new house the virtues and grace of an old form and style, he did not quite succeed. The style could perhaps be called archaic Federal or persistent Federal.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-145

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

organization County Commissioners of Kent County

Historical Society of Kent County date April 23, 1985

street & number Court House 778-4600

Cross Street telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

A brick wall divides the two wing rooms, but it is only one stretcher thick. Inspection of the attic shows the wing to have been built all at the same time. There are no windows on the wing's west end, though there is a door in the south bay, to the former shed kitchen. The wing is three-sided.

The exterior walls have been sprayed with a heavy paint-like substance that is almost like parging, and it is difficult to discern the nature of the brickwork. The rear (north) wall appears to be built with Liverpool, or 1-to-3 common bond. The bond of the east wall cannot be discerned with certainty; it appears to include a variety of bonds: 1 to 6, 1 to 5, 1 to 3, etc. The main south facade brick is laid in Flemish bond. The bricks appear to be a sort of salmon-beige color on the surface and a darker red behind. These bricks are not particularly large, whereas some of the wing bricks are, though perhaps they are reused. The mortar is sandy. There has been much use of partial bricks to make the courses work out. This does not seem to be repair work, but rather a poor job of initial construction. One rear brick that could be located for reasonably accurate measurement is 8-1/4" x 4-1/4" x 2-1/4". The wing's south facade bond is also Flemish, and its west end appears to be laid in 1-to-3 bond. One end brick was measured at 8-3/4" x 4-1/4" x 2-1/4". Joints are wide (c. 1/2"). There are marks in the west gable end where the shed kitchen was attached. A former casement window in the north bay of the west end has been closed, and there is no evidence of a similar former window in the south bay.

The main section has a water table, whose bond could not be discerned, nor could it be certain if it is molded. There is a cellar beneath at least part of the main section, which was not entered. Two cellar windows were seen on the north side of the main section. The location of an outside entry could not be determined with certainty. The cellar windows are now partly below ground, possibly from subsidence.

There is a chimney in the east end of the main section, within the wall in the center. It is small and square, not as large as the wing chimneys. It is rather short and deteriorated. It appears to have either a band or corbelled cap. There is a center chimney within the west wall of the wing. It is made of brick but has been sprayed. There is a stovepipe hole to this chimney in the now-exterior wall, evidently for a stove in the shed/summer kitchen. The third chimney is in the approximate center of the wing, through the ridge. It is for a fireplace that opens into the wing's east room; the chimney is entirely within that room, which was used as a dining room. All three chimneys align in height, resulting in a very short chimney for the taller main section.

The main entry is into the west bay of four on the south side of the main section, through a porch. The three windows to the east light the large parlor. The door is gone and the opening is covered on the exterior with old windows, and the opening is panelled with decorative 4'x8' sheet material on the interior. The distance from jamb to jamb is about 34". There is a transom, but its nature could not be seen. This entry led to a wide hall west of the parlor. The rear hall door has been closed and a bathroom installed in the rear


(continued)

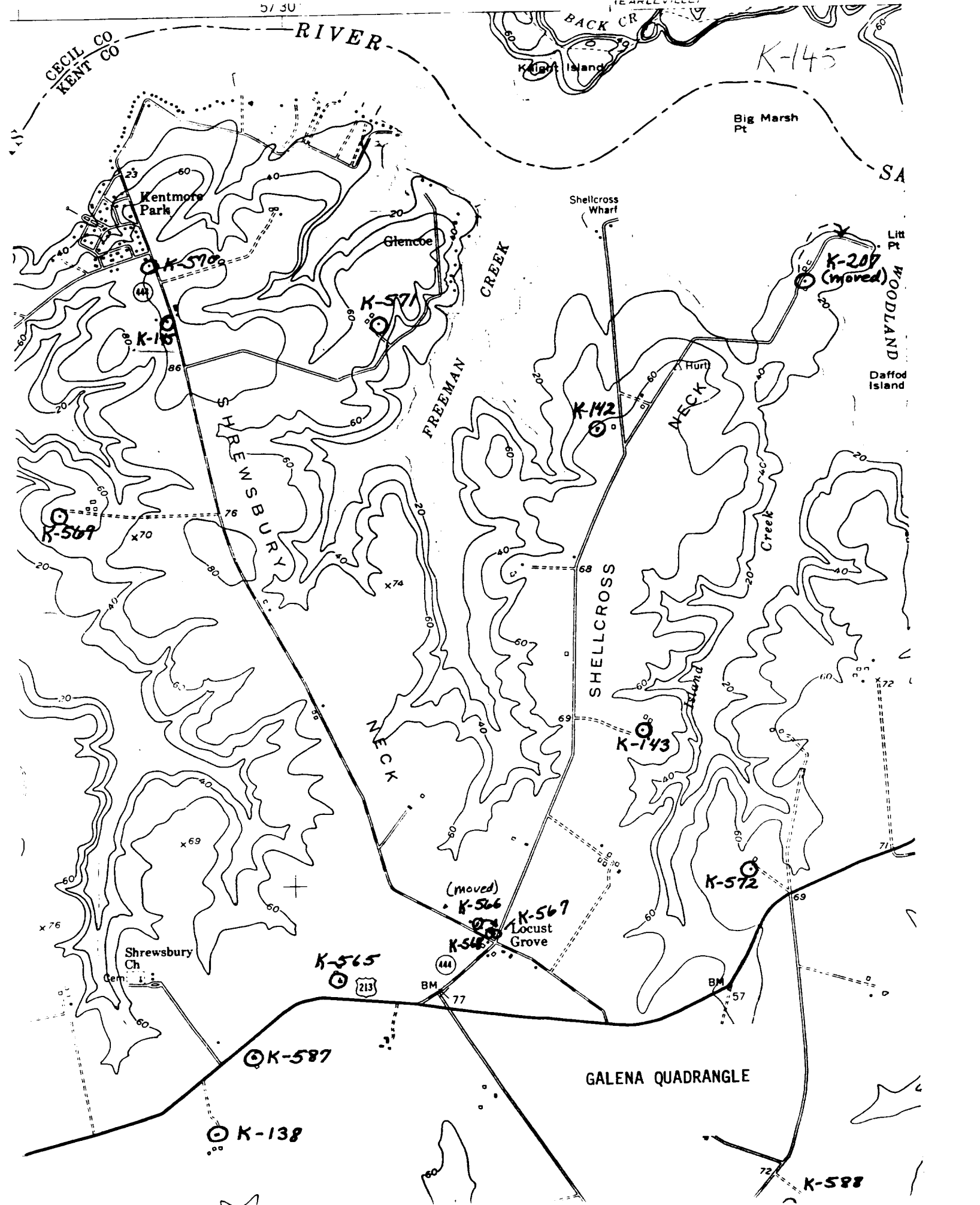
of the hall. There are several secondary entries. On the wing's north side, in the easternmost bay, the door is gone and the opening covered. This would have been an entry into the dining room. The opening shows signs of alteration. The opening may have been made taller and narrower. There is a flat header arch above the opening. It is nearly at ground level, but the entire wing is indeed very low. Its joists are practically on the ground, and some have rotted badly. Part of the floor has gone through. On the south side of the wing, in the second bay from the west corner, there is a door into the kitchen. The door here may once have been lower and wider. The trim is like that of the main-section windows and door--a plain fillet with a large bead. On the same side of the wing (south) there is a door in the easternmost bay. It is tall and narrow, having a transom. It opens into the dining room, opposite the rear door into the dining room. The main section and wing are both four bays wide on the first storey of the south, main facade. Each is only two bays wide on the south second-storey.

The surviving original windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. Others are replacements postdating the fire. There are no windows in the east end of the main section. The trim of the first-storey south windows is the same as at the adjacent main entry: a fillet about 1-1/8" to 1-1/4" wide and a large (3/4") inside bead. The window sills are 3" thick. Architrave size of these windows is about 33" wide by 55" high. The shutters are gone. Hinges mortised in and their pins remain. Several shutter dogs remain. One in the rear has a floret design, with a diameter of about 2".

The parlor mantel has been partially burned, but it appears to be a very plain Greek Revival mantel dating from the mid-nineteenth century. It is tall and with a plain shelf. An ogee-and-bevel molding is used as a pilaster cap and as part of the shelf bed. The chimney seen rising through the house from this fireplace is only about 20-24" square.

This house is a four bay long, 'A' roof house, constructed of brick, with a four bay long wing, also of brick. The structure is covered with a thick paint-like substance which nearly hides the texture of the brickwork. It has been greatly changed in recent years, after a fire which destroyed a third section. It is worthy of note only because it is the shell of an early structure.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY <u>Kentmore Park</u> STREET NO. <u>Kentmore Park Road - 2 1/2 miles</u> <u>North of Locust Grove</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Roy Mitchell</u> PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u> | | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-145</u> 2. NAME <u>Roy Mitchell Farm - (Kentmore park)</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Century</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE | |
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p> this house is a four bay long "A" row house, constructed of brick, with a four bay long wing, also of brick. The structure is covered with a thick paint-like substance which nearly hides the texture of the brickwork. It has been greatly changed in recent years, after a fire which destroyed a third section. It is worthy of note only because it is the shell <u>shell</u> of an early structure. </p> | | OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u> | |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>fair</u> | | | |
| 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)  | | 7. PHOTOGRAPH | |
| 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. | | 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 18, 1968</u> | |





K-145

Roy Mitchell Home Farm

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/23/85

View to northwest

K145
#11
6 pc



K-145

Roy Mitchell Home Farm

Rt. 444, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/23/85

View to southeast

K145
#9
3 sec.